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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,859	08/13/2001	Andreas Sahlbach	20010013	7848

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HEWLET-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/928,859

Applicant(s)

SAHLBACH, ANDREAS

Examiner

Courtney D. Fields

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 13 August 2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 13 August 2001 have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toh et al. (Pub. No. 2002/0019932).

Referring to the rejection of claims 1, 13, and 25, Toh et al. discloses a Method for providing a switch user functionality in a server-agent environment in an IT network comprising: generating a switch user (SU) certificate using public-key cryptography upon receiving a request to switch from a user account presently used on the node to another user account, sending the SU certificate to the agent, checking the correctness of the SU certificate and performing the requested switch to the other user account provided that the SU certificate is

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correct (See page 3, Section 0041, page 4, Section 0042, and page 5, Sections 0054-0057)

Referring to the rejection of claims 2 and 14, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the server-agent environment comprises a network management server and wherein the agent is management agent running on a managed node (See page 8, Sections 0087-0089)

Referring to the rejection of claims 3 and 15, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate is generated by a designated server (See page 2, Section 0032)

Referring to the rejection of claims 4 and 16, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the agent forwards the received SU certificate to a domain controller which checks the correctness of the SU certificate and allows the agent to perform the requested switch user (See page 4, Section 0042)

Referring to the rejection of claims 5 and 17, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein a private and public key pair is available before the method begins (See page 3, Section 0040)

Referring to the rejection of claims 6 and 18, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the public key is made public within the network or within a domain of the network in which the correctness of the SU certificate is checked (See page 3, Section 0041)

Referring to the rejection of claims 7 and 19, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the generation of the SU certificate comprises signing an SU document with the private key and wherein the checking of the SU

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certificate comprises verifying the signature with the public key (See page 6, Section 0065)

Referring to the rejection of claims 8 and 20, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the step of checking the correctness of the SU certificate comprises verifying that the SU certificate originates from a designated server and has not been modified (See page 6, Section 0070)

Referring to the rejection of claims 9 and 21, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate contains no password relating to the account to which the switch is to be performed (See page 6, Sections 0068-0070)

Referring to the rejection of claims 10 and 22, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate comprises the account name to which the account is to be switched and an identification of the node for which the switch is to be performed (See page 4, Section 0046)

Referring to the rejection of claims 11 and 23, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate comprises a time stamp or another certificate identification stamp (See page 4, Section 0050)

Referring to the rejection of claims 12 and 24, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the step of checking comprises verifying that the certificate is not outdate or has not been used before, by means of the time stamp or the certificate identification stamp (See page 5, Section 0059)

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Referring to the rejection of claim 26, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate generation component is a part of the management server (See page 4, Section 0046)

Referring to the rejection of claim 27, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate checking component is a part of the domain controller (See page 4, Section 0042)

Referring to the rejection of claim 28, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein a public key publication component (See page 4, Section 0046)

Referring to the rejection of claim 29, Toh et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate generation component comprises an digital signature component which signs an SU document with a private key corresponding to the public key and wherein the SU certificate checking component comprises a signature verification component (See page 5, Section 0064)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



cdf

June 2, 2005



MATTHEW SMITHERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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